

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| International   | Application No |
| PCT/GB 03/04687 |                |

|                                     |           |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER |           |           |
| IPC 7                               | G06F17/00 | G06F17/30 |
| G06F17/60                           |           |           |

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|---|--|--|
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC |  |  |
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| B. FIELDS SEARCHED |
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| Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) |
| IPC 7 G06F  |

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| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched |
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| Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) |
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| EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ |
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| C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT |
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| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|--|-----------------------|
| X        | US 6 370 521 B1 (AUSTIN PAMELA S ET AL)<br>9 April 2002 (2002-04-09)<br>abstract<br>column 2, line 34 -column 3, line 34<br>column 5, line 8 -column 8, line 60<br>column 10, line 32 -column 11, line 59<br><br>-/- | 1-11                  |

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex. |
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\* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubt on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

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| Date of the actual completion of the international search | Date of mailing of the International search report |
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| 23 March 2004 | 01/04/2004 |
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|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Name and mailing address of the ISA   | Authorized officer |
| European Patent Office, P.O. 5019 Palaiflaan 2<br>NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk<br>Tel (+31-70) 340-2640, Tx 31 651 epo nl<br>Fax (+31-70) 340-3016 | Breidenich, M      |

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| PCT/GB 03/04687 |                |

| C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT |  |                       |
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| Category   | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No. |
| X  | <p>WO 02 069180 A (US POSTAL SERVICE ; RAINES BRENT A (US); FERLAINO ANTHONY M (US); H) 6 September 2002 (2002-09-06)</p> <p>abstract</p> <p>paragraph '0009!</p> <p>paragraph '0024! - paragraph '0027!</p> <p>paragraph '0031!</p> <p>paragraphs '0036!, '0037!</p> <p>paragraphs '0042!-'0050!</p> <p>paragraphs '0052!-'0054!</p> <p>paragraph '0058!</p> <p>figures 1,7</p> | 1-11                  |
| X  | <p>US 2002/032623 A1 (TERRY WILLIAM ET AL) 14 March 2002 (2002-03-14)</p> <p>abstract</p> <p>paragraph '0006!</p> <p>paragraphs '0035!-'0041!</p>  | 1-11                  |
| X  | <p>US 2002/095306 A1 (SUTHERLAND ANDREW V ET AL) 18 July 2002 (2002-07-18)</p> <p>abstract</p> <p>paragraph '0009!</p> <p>paragraphs '0017!, '0018!</p> <p>paragraphs '0049!-'0052!</p>  | 1-11                  |
| A  | <p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN</p> <p>vol. 2002, no. 05, 3 May 2002 (2002-05-03)</p> <p>&amp; JP 2002 030808 A (KTK TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING CO LTD),</p> <p>31 January 2002 (2002-01-31)</p> <p>abstract</p>  | 10                    |
| A  | <p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN</p> <p>vol. 2002, no. 11,</p> <p>6 November 2002 (2002-11-06)</p> <p>&amp; JP 2002 197142 A (KUNIHIRO KOGYO KK),</p> <p>12 July 2002 (2002-07-12)</p> <p>abstract</p>   | 10                    |
| A  | <p>US 5 557 736 A (ISHIMARU MASAHIKO ET AL)</p> <p>17 September 1996 (1996-09-17)</p> <p>column 1, line 18-50</p> <p>column 2, line 31 -column 3, line 3</p> <p>column 4, line 51 -column 5, line 48</p>   | 1-11                  |

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| Patent document cited in search report |    | Publication date | Patent family member(s)          |   | Publication date   |
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